

of this assignment his likeness appears on an official recruiting poster and during the war years he was the model for a number of the posters used by the Treasury Department in War Bond campaigns. In fact a picture of Alan was on display in the Naval Headquarters in Washington.

After the session at Farragut was completed he was then shifted to the Seabees at Camp Perry, Virginia. Because of his athletic ability and superior physical qualifications he was assigned as a judo, wrestling and physical training instructor. While serving in this capacity he had the good fortune to have Ray Moore as his coach and commanding officer. Ray Moore was a National A. A. U. Wrestling Champion and rates as one of the most skillful judo experts in the world. Alan gained considerable in knowledge and skill in these arts of self-defense during the period he was associated with this champion wrestler. After spending six months at Camp Perry he was sent to Davisville, Rhode Island and from here he was transferred to Pearl Harbor. Was in Hawaii for eight months before being shifted to Guam where he spent another eight months. On April 2nd of this year, which is exactly two months prior to the date he won the "Mr. America" title, he received his honorable discharge from the service.

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The publication sang the praise of the new Mr. America for many pages, carrying many beautiful shots including one on the cover portraying this Adonis most advantageously. It also mentioned that Alan Steponaitis neither drinks or smokes. That, too, is admirable.

Ray Mungai, photographer at 2317 W. 25th St., Chicago, has many beautiful photographs of Mr. America for sale.

Pictures of Alan are by Mungai.

DIARY OF LT. JAMES J. LEARY

Co-Pilot on the Night Raider

2422 N. 50th, Omaha, Neb.

(Continued from last month)

Friday February 26, 1943

Primary target — Bremen, secondary target — Wilhelmshaven.

Bombload 12 500 lb. General purpose

Altitude 28,000 ft. — temperature 37 deg. — time 5 hours.

Pilot — Fleenor Radio — Jungblunth Waist Gunner — t. Kilmer.

Co-pilot — Leary Top Turret — Nelson Tunnel Gunner — Dawley.

Navigator — Ellis Tail Turret — Bates.

Bombardier — Pinner Rt. Waist Gunner — Szabo.

Since the 409th, 330th and 328th had gone to Africa in the first week in December, we had been temporarily assigned to the 329th at Bungay. We had special navigational equipment installed in our ship the Night Raider, and have been operating with the 329th for the past three months.

Friday Feb. 26th (Mary's birthday) Note: — his sister —) we were awakened by the PA at 5:45 A. M. We dressed and hurried to breakfast, after breakfast we reported for briefing held in the intelligence office.

The briefing consisted of the target briefing, weather briefing, and formation briefing. Our target was Bremen by the way of the North Sea. The secondary target was Wilhelmshaven. The weather was supposed to have been fairly good for high altitude precision bombing. Our formation was two elements of three ships, each stacked down into the sun. The 329th Bomb Squadron was sup-

posed to fly in the rear of the 44 Bomb Group. This was the second wing formation which of the first wing which consisted of Four Groups. Captain Alberts led the 329th and we were to fly on his left wing which was No. 3 position in the first element. This meant I was to fly the formation and get a good workout.

Coming out of the briefing, the sky was clear and sun was just rising. We all went to our lockers, put on our heavy flying equipment and climbed into a truck which took us to out ships in the dispersal area. The Night Raider was in good shape and was raring to go. The guns were all clean and wiped free of oil. Our six planes taxied out at 8:15 and took off at 8:30 as per schedule.

We slipped into formation and started our climb on course to Shipton where we rendezvous with the 44th Group.

Nearing Shipton we saw the 44th starting to circle above us. There was a large gap in their elements, so our formation slipped in behind their element and packed it in. From Shipton we followed the 44th, climbing on course to Cromer, our rendezvous point with the first wing. We circled Cromer at 20,000 ft. Several times before we sighted the first wing well out in the North Sea. We were several thousand ft. above the formation of the Fortresses. But the leader of the 44th tried to catch up with the 17's and consequently he strung out those ships following him. We pulled 40 inches of HG, and 2400 RPM trying to keep up with him.

Two of our ships dropped out (329) leaving four of our squadrons to continue the mission. After reaching an altitude of about 28,000 ft. we leveled off. However, we still had to pull about 40 inches HG to keep up. We were gaining on the Fortresses. As we sighted the Islands that lie North of the Dutch Coast, we had finally caught up with the 17's. From my position I could see Focke Wolf's 190's looking over the 17's. Several of these FW's came toward us, climbing behind us and made several attacks upon the rear of our formation.

We were now approaching the German coast, and as we did we made a right turn toward Bremen. Now I occasionally caught a glimpse of M. E. 190's darting among the 17's. Nearing Bremen we saw that it was impossible to drop upon it, because it was completely covered with clouds. Flak was bursting among the 17's and also around us. We started evasive action. Occasionally I would hear and feel our guns firing. We turned left following the fortresses and making a run upon Wilhelmshaven. The ME 109's became bolder and attacked more frequently. We started getting flak from batteries at Wilhelmshaven. We started evasive action and started our bombing run. The flak was extremely accurate for range and altitude. We made our run, dropped our bombs and headed out toward the North Sea.

As we passed the harbor at Wilhelmshaven I saw a large boat below shooting up flak at us. Really was putting it up too. We had dropped our bombs at approximately 11:30. We started letting down at about 200 MPH. Albrechts left the 17's and took a shorter course closer to the coast.

We were still pulling 40 inches HG. The fighters seemed to have left us. Our No. 2 Super Charger was giving us a little trouble. But noticed a couple of B 24's to our left and just a little below us. So we figured they were a little too close for comfort, so we pulled into No. 2 position on Harvey's wing. We started to lose ground in this position, but we were not worried as we figured we were safe from fighters.

I took a good look around and saw the 17's and well

to the right. Even above and behind these B 17's, I saw the 3 lead ships of the 44th. Over the rear of one of the B 17's groups I saw one with 3 super chargers gone. We were now below our formation, about 300 yards behind, and gradually losing ground. Suddenly I heard our guns in the rear of our ship start barking. We tried to catch the formation by diving, but we did not make any process in spite of the HG we were pulling.

Now the attack was coming faster. A couple of FW 190's went out in front of us and made a climbing turn toward us. As they started in at us, I said, "Bud, this is about time to start evasive action." We did and found it to our advantage. Jungbluth had gone into the rear to help Kilmer with his oxygen. Jungbluth found Kilmer completely passed out. Kilmer had stopped breathing. Bob gave him artificial respiration and got him breathing again. Dawley the tunnel gunner was out on oxygen, but O. K. Bates, the tail gunner had the turret knocked out during the first attack, so had to crank it around by use of hand cranks.

(To be continued)

AMONG OUR FRIENDS . . .



To Wed November Third

Charlotte Sarett, petite and beautiful daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Sarett, will be married on November 3rd at the Shoreland Hotel to George Saunders of Santa Monica, Cal., a publicist. The groom, his family and friends will fly in for this event.

Charlotte has been with LYS folk dancers for many years and is a folk festival vet. She also was a WAVE (Yeoman 2/C), receiving her training at Hunters College and stationed mostly in San Francisco, Cal. As a dancer she received high acclaim in our circles. She did some excellent Spanish work and any type of folk dance. Since her return from the service, she has done a duet with V. F. Beliajus on September 29th at the Stevens Hotel for the Junior Hadassa Conclave. It was a Hassidic (Polish-Jewish) dance portraying the distraction of a youth from his prayers by the presence of the beautiful girl, and both do a flirtatious dance.

The wedding is expected to be the loveliest thing in our midst and the December issue will carry a detailed account. Meanwhile, all of LYS, the Co-Op, International Housers and the many other friends join VILTIS in extending Charlotte, her future husband, Mr. and Mrs. Sarett and sister Beatrice the heartiest congratulations.

Stephanie Novicky In Recital

Stephanie Novicky, a member of the VILTIS staff who won first place in a piano contest and played solo for 95,000 people who attended the Chicagoland Festival

in Soldiers Field on August 17, will present four piano recitals. The concerts are sponsored by her town people (Melrose Pk., Ill.) and will be held in the Melrose Park theatre on October 9 and 10. They will be half hour recitals at 7 and 9 P. M. both evenings. Valio Stepania!

N. Dakota Piano Recital

In Forbes, North Dakota, another youthful VILTIPite, 17 year old Lee Vern Brotherton, presented his piano pupils in a recital. All did very well. Lee Vern is an excellent pianist for one so young, and a very handy farmer too. Lee Vern pinch hit for V. F. Beliajus during his sojourn through N. D., when the regular pianist, Mrs. Alma Litchfield was unable to be present at the Peace Garden camp. Lee Vern is in his first year of college at Ellendale, N. D., where he studies engineering and continues his music.



Assistant Professor

Our Columnist, "For Friendship's Sake", and book reviewer Clayton C. Campbell, accepted a very attractive position with the Missouri School of Mines, in Rolla, Mo. Until this autumn Clay held a responsible position with the experimental library of Purdue University at W. Lafayette, Ind. Due to the change and moving, we did not receive his column for this month and we miss it. Good luck Clay old pal.

Eddie McNeil A Prof.

Edward Bowen McNeil, this summer's dischargee from the Navy with the title of ETM 2/C, and instructor of Radar at the Navy Pier, Chicago, will combine teaching physics at the University of Illinois and graduate work toward a degree. Eddie was introduced to folk dancing last summer and attended folk dance session at International House, Northwestern and also joined the Lithuanian group and participated in the National Folk Festival as a Lith and a Pole. Ed will be greatly missed in Chicago.

Youthful Folk Loris

Lovely little Emily Much, though only 17, is a good pianist and a good dancer. She is a folk festival vet of the Polish group of Northwestern Settlement House where she plays for V. F. Beliajus during his instruction